

1011377

Friends of Oystermouth Castle

Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2023

Income Statement

Income Statement
2023

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Friends of Oystermouth Castle (The Friends)

Registered Charity No 1011377

Financial Statements Year Ended 31st December 2023

Income Statement

Registered Charity number:

1011377

Registered address:

7 Libby Way

Mumbles

Swansea

SA3 4LB

Trustees:

Paul Lewis Chair & Trustee

Marie Hughes Secretary & Trustee

Gerallt Williams Treasurer & Trustee

George Lawrence Vice Chair & Trustee

Sian O'Neil Trustee

Clive Hughes Trustee

Michael Eames Trustee

John Malvesey Trustee

Chris Oldfield Trustee

Independent Examiner:

Bevan Buckland LLP

Ground Floor Cardigan House

Castle Court

Swansea Enterprise Park

Swansea

SA7 9LA

1. Structure, Governance and Management

The Friends is an unincorporated association registered with the Charity Commission.

The management committee adopted its constitution in July 2012. The Friends members elect management committee members from its members at the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

2. Licence to operate

The City and Council of Swansea (the 'Council') own the freehold premises of Oystermouth Castle.

Under the terms of a Licence to Operate (the 'Licence') The Friends and authorised guests are permitted non-exclusive use by the Council to use Oystermouth Castle as a Heritage Visitor facility. The Licence provides that the Friends may retain any income arising from the use and operation of Oystermouth Castle, less an annually agreed contribution towards the cost of maintenance of Oystermouth Castle.

3. Financial Review

3.1 Income & Expenditure

The Charity saw an increase in admission fees, from £64,009 to £72,015. This is in part largely due to the outreach to local schools to arrange trips to the castle.

There has been a significant decrease in the amount spent on castle maintenance within the year. Last year £36,769 was spent on castle maintenance and repairs, due to a large grant received in 2021 of £89,001. As of 31st December 2023, £42,647 of this unrestricted grant remains.

The total amount of unrestricted funds as of 2022 was £140,757. As of 2023 it is £188,030. There were no restricted funds in either year.

The accounts have been prepared on receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

4. Bank Account

The Friends have banked with NatWest since 2015. We presently have four accounts.

A portion of income is held in the current account to cover:

1. Essential Costs
2. Prior agreed events at the Castle which are arranged by the Council
3. Materials purchased for the Friends use
4. All functions which are the Friends responsibility e.g. AGMs, insurance, accountancy fees
5. The Friends contribution towards the Castle conservation
6. Other sundry items

5. Public Benefit Statement

The Friends objects are to provide access and presentation at the Castle. The Friends promote the history and heritage of the site to visitors and provide a venue for local schools colleges and universities. The Castle hosts medieval re-enactments and living history societies, which recreate all aspects of life during the Middle Ages.

We have managed to run guided tours three times a week in July, August and September, organise Easter bunny, Halloween and Christmas events and have 9 educational school tours. We have liaised with the schools to ensure their visits fit into the schools curriculum, they have workbooks which have been compiled by the Friends and vetted by the schools to assist with the tour. We are aiming to expand this further by working with Cynefin to put in place other activities including a three dimensional computer program so that the children can review or prepare their visit.

6. How we fulfilled our Aims

The Friends set up a training programme for potential new tour guides to shadow our experienced guides and we are continuing this by making a more structured approach. The programme of guided tours last year provided us with useful positive feedback for the trustees. As a result this coming year we will be increasing the number of tours given at the castle to two tours AM & PM Wednesday and Friday with additional tours during school holidays on a Sunday.

The trustees have reviewed their strategic aims and objectives to enhance the way we do business. To enable us to comply with legislation regarding young and vulnerable people a number of the friends have been DBS checked and a further 3 more have applied.

7. Special Events and Year Highlights

The past year has seen the trustees engaging with local Swansea Council representatives to with the aim to enhance the profile of the castle.

The volunteer numbers have increased slightly since reopening but we are always looking for volunteers to join and commit whatever they can to help keeping the castle opening and functioning effectively.

During the past year the Friends formed separate teams, for tour guides, events organisation, odd jobs and extended their connections with the Ostreme Theatre Players, who gave magnificent support when called upon.

The Friends and Swansea Council are still engaged with Hiraeth Architecture to carry out the next stage of our feasibility study. The proposals we are now looking to put in place include a new reception area, educational area, shop, toilet facilities, exhibition area etc. These proposals have been helped by a grant of £148020.00p from the UK shared prosperity fund as part of the UK government levelling up agenda. Hiraeth on behalf of the friends of Oystermouth castle are working with surveyors, CADW and Swansea council to submit planning application by the end of 2024. When this stage is completed, we will move onto the build stage which is estimated to be in excess of £3 million, the castle will then be in a position looking forward to giving a better experience for visitors to the castle as well as putting on more events.

8. Future Plans

- Ensure the Castle is a safe and presentable building for the Friends and its visitors
- Tent savings can be used as match funding with Feasibility Study improvements made
- Grant Applications will be required when Feasibility Study improvements made
- Wales Culture Grant to be set against Hiraeth fees and future improvements
- More structured training and recruitment procedures to apply

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- Increased entrance fees to be raised in line with Council recommendations
 - More signage
 - Use of QR codes in signs and leaflets
 - Introduce improvements in line with the grant money received
 - Continue to raise funds to give a secure future for our work.
 - Continue to work in partnership with others to fulfil our aims.
 - Continue to engage with the local community to further and enhance the knowledge of the Castle's history and continuing story
 - Promote the Castle as a community attraction that local people want to visit on a regular basis

9. **Volunteer Help in 2023**

- The trustees have been overwhelmed by the help and support that the Friends have given to the Castle and wish to record their sincere thanks to all who have kept the Castle open and enjoyed by the public.

Looking forward we presently have 50 potential 'friends of Oystermouth Castle' for this coming year.

The events team are always looking for help with the productions they put on at the castle, no special skill are required only plenty of enthusiasm.

10. **2024**

- Looking forward, let us hope that this year is a successful one, and we continue to make progress. With a number of big issues in the pipeline we can look forward with great optimism to make the castle one of the cornerstones for attracting visitors for the county and benefiting our local community.

11. **Dave Stevens**

- Finally, I must mention that our Past Treasurer Dave Stevens who has stepped down from duties as a trustee and friend after giving in excess of 30 years volunteering at the castle. I would like to thank Dave for all his past work as Treasurer and the excellent support he has given as a trustee and help given to other 'Friends'.

Paul Lewis
Vice Chairman
27th February 2024

CC16 Receipts and payments accounts

From	01/01/2023	To	31/12/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations & legacies	586	-	-	586	2,000
Charitable activities	72,015	-	-	72,015	64,009
Other trading activities	9,681	-	-	9,681	4,141
Investments	835	-	-	835	154
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	83,117			83,117	70,304
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Sub total					
Total receipts	83,117			83,117	70,304
A3 Payments					
Raising funds	13,934	-	-	13,934	15,540
Charitable activities	10,062	-	-	10,062	9,247
Castle maintenance	5,030	-	-	5,030	36,769
Admin expenses	2,297	-	-	2,297	-
Repairs and cleaning	2,703	-	-	2,703	-
Bank charges	930	-	-	930	-
Insurance	491	-	-	491	-
Sundry	397	-	-	397	-
Sub total	35,844			35,844	61,556

A4 Asset and investment purchases (see table)					
Sub total					
Total payments	35,844	-	-	35,844	61,556
Net of receipts/(payments)	47,273	-	-	47,273	8,748
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	140,757			140,757	132,009
Cash funds this year end	188,030	-	-	188,030	140,757

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

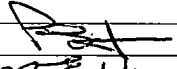
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	106,573	-	
	Bank account	14,814		
	Bank account	23,507		
	Bank account	43,091		
	Cash	45		
		Total cash funds	188,030	
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Stock	Unrestricted	1,204	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Independent examination fee	Unrestricted	650	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Prior year adjustment

Included within creditors in 2022 year-end accounts was a restricted amount of £57,677 relating to deferred income. However, after investigation in the year, this did not comply with the Charity SORP and should have been treated as income when received. Further to this, during 2021 the funder confirmed these amounts could be spent with no restrictions. This has been retrospectively amended within the 2022 figures above.

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
 PAUL LEWIS	PAUL LEWIS MARIE HUGHES	6.5.24 6/3/24

Friends of Oystermouth Castle

1011377



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

**Independent examiner's
report on the accounts**

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Friends of Oystermouth Castle

**On accounts for the
year ended**

31st December 2023

**Charity
no (if
any)**

1011377

Set out on pages

1 - 10

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/12/2023**.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Michael Jones

Date:

11/3/24

Name:

Michael Jones

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or
body (if any):**

ACCA

Address:

Bevan Buckland LLP

Ground Floor, Cardigan House Castle Court, Swansea Enterprise Park,

Llansamlet, Swansea SA7 9LA